

particular the civil strife which tore the country apart in 1997. Given Albania's vulnerability to militant Islamic infiltration, I am sure that the war on terrorism was in the forefront of his duties in recent months.

Ambassador Limprecht was a member of the Senior Foreign Service, having served with the U.S. Foreign Service since 1975, with postings in Germany, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well as in Washington. In the 1980s, he served in the office which handled what was then the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and now the OSCE, and worked with the staff of the Helsinki Commission which I had just joined and now serve as Co-Chairman.

My deepest condolences go to the Ambassador's wife, Nancy, their daughters Alma and Eleanor, friends and colleagues.

HONORING LOPEZ FOODS ON THEIR 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John C. Lopez and Lopez Food, Inc. in celebrating their 10th Anniversary of service to their customers and community.

Lopez Foods a "state of the art" meat processing plant, supplies all-beef hamburger patties, pork breakfast sausage and Canadian-style bacon to McDonald's and Walmart, Inc. The business was originally a subsidiary of Wilson Foods. John C. Lopez purchased the company in 1992, and in 1995 changed the name to Lopez Foods, Inc. That chance marked a new era in the company's relationship with its customers and community.

Lopez, a 19 year veteran of the McDonald's System, used his experience to make the company more compatible with the McDonald's operation and management philosophies. With this approach, Lopez Foods became a top supplier to the world's restaurant leaders. The Lopez Foods mission is to establish the highest industry standards in food and employee safety, quality production, environmental protection and customer service. These great attributes have not only made Lopez Foods a successful company, but a place that the community can feel proud of.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that John C. Lopez and Lopez Foods, Inc. have done much not only to establish high industry standards on food production, but also his employee safety and customer service. For all of his hard work and dedication, I join in celebrating with family, friends, and the community 10 years of success for Lopez Foods, Inc.

John, I wish you the best of luck, and much continued success to you and your family.

RICHARD AND LINDA SUE
BLAKELY: PILLARS OF THE COM-
MUNITY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special friends, Richard and

Linda Sue Blakely of Caro, Michigan, as they celebrate their retirement after many years of serving their community in their jobs and in their volunteer efforts. Richard, who spent 30 years as a deputy with the Tuscola County Sheriffs Department, and Linda Sue, who most recently worked as a special education para-professional with the Caro school system, have set a high standard of community involvement for others to emulate.

Richard met Linda Sue in the fall of 1959 at a USO dance in Oklahoma and they married on April 20, 1960. Ever since, Richard and Linda Sue have been committed to each other, their family, their church and their community. In particular, their work on behalf of young people deserves special mention.

While a student at Saginaw Valley State University, Richard developed and completed his own curriculum in the study of child and family services. He later used the knowledge to work with Tuscola County's Juvenile Diversion Program and Safetyville Program. In 1988, Richard graduated with the first DARE training class established for law enforcement officers in Michigan and he now teaches DARE on a part-time basis for the Tuscola County Sheriffs Department.

Linda Sue's commitment to children took a different path after the couple's youngest son acquired learning challenges as a result of traumatic brain injuries suffered as an infant. The experience of raising a child with such challenges prompted Linda Sue to take jobs devoted to educating and advocating for parents with children facing mental and physical challenges. She also has coached volleyball and cheerleading.

The Blakely marriage has been blessed with four remarkable children, Michael, David, Mary and Joshua. While Richard and Linda Sue never lost sight of their family responsibilities, their faith also led them to embrace their Christian duty to others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Richard and Linda Sue Blakely on their retirements and in honoring them for the fullness of their work and volunteer efforts. I am confident they will continue to find many ways to put their God-given talents to good use to benefit others.

ELDERLY HOUSING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative FRANK, I will be introducing the Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act of 2002. The bill is supported by twenty organizations which are members of the Elderly Housing Coalition.

The Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act is designed to build on the progress we made last Congress in expanding affordable housing opportunities for senior citizens, providing supportive services for frail elderly, and helping seniors age in place and maintain their dignity while doing so.

As our federally assisted housing stock ages, many projects owned by non-profits lack the resources for critically needed repairs and modernization. Without access to capital, and

with no federal program designed to provide funds for repair of such projects, we face the prospect of significant numbers of low-income seniors living in federally assisted housing that will continue to deteriorate in physical terms.

Last Congress, we succeeded in enacting legislation to authorize grants to non-profit owned elderly housing projects to make such needed repairs. This was authorized under newly created Section 202b of the housing code, which also authorized grants for conversion of federally assisted elderly housing to assisted living. Unfortunately, Congress has only funded the assisted living portion of this program. Therefore, Section 2 of the legislation being introduced today authorizes \$200 million a year for each of the next five years under the portion of Section 202b which provides for repair grants for non-profit federally assisted elderly housing. Funds would be provided under a competition based on need.

Section 3 of the bill addresses the need for affordable assisted living, by authorizing capital grants to public housing authorities to convert elderly housing units to assisted living. Assisted living provides a broad range of supportive services designed to help seniors with activities of daily living. Provision of these services allow seniors who would otherwise have to move into a nursing home to age in place and maintain their independence of living.

As noted, Congress already provides grants to convert federally assisted elderly housing units to assisted living. It makes just as much sense to make grants to public housing authorities for the same purpose. For larger housing authorities which convert a housing development to assisted living, there is the added benefit that seniors who live in other housing developments and reach the point where they no longer live on their own can move into the assisted living units.

Another important way that we can promote aging in place in our federally assisted and public housing units is through grants to hire and maintain services coordinators. Service coordinators link seniors with community services which are needed to meet their particular needs and maintain independent living. Congress already provides funding for service coordinators for public and assisted housing, but funding levels are inadequate. Section 4 of the bill would authorize funding to renew all expiring service coordinator grants, as well as authorize \$50 million to hire additional service providers in public and assisted housing.

Finally, Section 5 of the bill would create a new pilot program to build "mixed-income" elderly housing units under the Section 202 elderly housing program. This would leverage existing federal funding for subsidized units with private funding for market-based apartments. It would also create economies of scale that make it easier to pay for supportive services, as well as expand socialization opportunities for the seniors who live in these units.

As our population ages and as the problem of housing and health care affordability becomes more acute for our nation's low-income seniors, our policies need to keep pace with these needs. The Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act is an important component of this effort, and I urge its enactment.